Reduction of seats in'flights between Agartala and Kolkata

617. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the total number of seats per week has been reduced in the fights between Agartala and Kolkata on account of revision of the programme;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the reduced number of seats in the flights in the event of reduction of flights of the air-bus cannot cope with the heavy rush of passengers; and

(c) .whether the whole thing will be reviewed and steps would be taken to increase the number of flights of air-bus as well as the number of seats over a week?

THE lVIINISTER OF STATE IN THE IVIINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION {SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Indian Airlines and Alliance Air were operatingi 2 flights per week on Koltaka-Agartala-Koikata sector in the summer Schedule and the number of seats were 1662. In the winter Schedule 2002, effective 27th October 2002, Indian Airlines and Alliance Air are operating 13 flights per week on Kolkata-Agartala-Kolkata sector and the number of seats is 1651. The marginal decrease in the number of seats is due to substitution of some A-320 operations with B-737 operations.

The passenger's demand on Kolkata-Agartala-Kolkata sector is constantly monitored by Indian Airlines and additional flights are operated from time to time to meet the increase in traffic. During the period from March to October, 2002, Alliance Air had operated 39 additional flights on this sector.

Impact of new Civil Aviation Policy

618. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the new Civil Aviation Policy, private airlines may now carry out international flights;

(b) whether the policy also proposes to allow foreign investment upto 40 per cent In domestic carriers; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the new policy and the impact it would have on the public sector airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) The draft Civil Aviation Policy is being finalised in consultation with various Ministries and Departments.

Airlink between historical places in Tamil Nadu

619. SHRI S. S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) whether Governrhent are aware of historical importance of Madurai, Rahianathapuram, Sivaganga, Tiruchirapalli and Thanjavur districts of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether Government will come fonward to provide Airlink in between these historical places; and

(c) if so, by when?

TiHE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government to airlink these places. However, Madurai, Tiruchirapalli and Trivandrum airports, which are nearest to Ramanathapuram, Sivaganga and Thanjavur respectively are well connected by Indian Airlines/Jet Airways flights.

Regular flights between Srinagar, Leh and Kargil

620. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether an airport has been constructed at Kargil which lies out of use for months together every year;

(b) whether there is any proposal to introduce regular flights between Srinagar, Leh and Kargil, if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) whether there are no arrangements for supply of provisions and consumer goods for employees maintaining the Kargil airport and the infrastructure thereof and if so, the steps being taken to make regular supplies of consumer goods available to them?